

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1-22 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). Method for establishing a connection ~~(23; 43)~~ suitable for communication in at least one direction between two subscriber stations ~~(1; 2)~~ in a communication network ~~(20)~~ comprising a plurality of switching stations or routers ~~(21; 22; 42)~~, in which a first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ and a second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ are connected with a predetermined router ~~(21<sub>1</sub> and 21<sub>2</sub> respectively)~~, and in which each router ~~(21; 22; 42)~~ can communicate with at least some of the other routers in the network;

10 in which said connection ~~(23)~~ runs via at least one of the said routers, each router ~~(for example 22<sub>2</sub>)~~ being connected to a corresponding previous station or router ~~(for example 22<sub>1</sub>)~~ and/or a corresponding next station or router ~~(for example 22<sub>3</sub>)~~;

15 in which the first station ~~(1)~~ transmits a first message to the second station ~~(2)~~ via a first route ~~(23)~~ comprising at least

one router ~~(21<sub>1</sub>)~~, said first message containing first payment willingness information;

in which the second station ~~(2)~~, in response to the reception of the first message, transmits a second message back  
20 to the first station ~~(1)~~ via the said first route ~~(23)~~, the said second message containing second payment willingness information;

in which a router ~~(for example 21<sub>1</sub>)~~ receiving the second message, if at least one of the first and the second payment willingness information entities has a predetermined value which  
25 is indicative of payment willingness, reserves at least a part of its communication capacity for direct connection with previous and following stations and/or routers ~~(22<sub>1</sub>, 2)~~ related to said router ~~(21<sub>1</sub>)~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim 1, in which a router ~~(for example 21<sub>1</sub>)~~ receiving the second message, if at least one of the first and the second payment willingness information entities has a predetermined value indicative of  
5 payment willingness, also transmits the second message to the previous router or station ~~(22<sub>1</sub>)~~ related to said router ~~(21<sub>1</sub>)~~, which is repeated until said second message arrives at the first station ~~(1)~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim 1, in which the first station ~~(1)~~, in response to the reception of the second message, transmits a third message to the second station ~~(2)~~ via the said route ~~(23)~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim 1, in which the said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the initiator of the connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, in which the first  
5 payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and in which the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim 1, in which the first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is initiator of the connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, and in which, in the case of  
5 "collect call," the second payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and the first payment willingness information has a

second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim 1, in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the initiator of the connection to be established and the said first station ~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which the second payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is  
5 indicative of payment willingness and the first payment willingness information has a second value which is different from the said predetermined first value.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim 1, in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the initiator for the connection to be established and the said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which, in the  
5 case of "collect call", the first payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). Router, suitable for inclusion  
in a network ~~(20)~~, comprising:

at least two communication connections ~~(101, 102)~~;

means ~~(110)~~ for establishing a connection between said  
5 communication connections ~~(101, 102)~~;

a control unit ~~(103)~~, coupled to the said communication  
connections, which is arranged for controlling said means ~~(110)~~;

a memory ~~(104)~~ coupled to the control unit ~~(103)~~;

in which the control unit ~~(103)~~, in response to the  
10 reception of a first message at one of said communication  
connections, is arranged for storing in the said memory ~~(104)~~  
data which is representative of the payment willingness  
information present in said first message, and for transmitting  
the first message to a following router via another communication  
15 connection;

in which the control unit ~~(103)~~, in response to the  
reception of a second message at the said other communication  
connection, is arranged, if at least one of the data stored in  
the said memory ~~(104)~~ and the payment willingness information  
20 present in the received second message has a value which is  
indicative of payment willingness, for reserving at least a part

of the capacity of the means ~~(110)~~ for a direct connection between said communication connections ~~(102)~~ and ~~(101)~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). Router according to Claim 8, in which the control unit ~~(103)~~, in response to the reception of the second message at the said other communication connection, is arranged, if at least one of the data stored in the said memory ~~(104)~~ and the payment willingness information present in the received second message has a value which is indicative of payment willingness, for transmitting the second message via the ~~first-named~~ communication connection ~~(101)~~ to the ~~previous~~ router preceding said router.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 2, in which the first station ~~(1)~~, in response to the reception of the second message, transmits a third message to the second station (2) via the said route ~~(23)~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 2, in which the said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the initiator of the connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, in which the first payment willingness information has a predetermined first value

which is indicative of payment willingness and in which the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 3, in which the said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the initiator of the connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, in which the first  
5 payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and in which the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 10, in which the said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the initiator of the connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, in which the first  
5 payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and in which the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 2,  
in which said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is initiator of the  
connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the said second subscriber  
station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, and in which, in the case of  
5 "collect call", the second payment willingness information has a  
predetermined first value which is indicative of payment  
willingness and the first payment willingness information has a  
second value which is different from said predetermined first  
value.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 3,  
in which said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is initiator of the  
connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the said second subscriber  
station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, and in which, in the case of  
5 "collect call", the second payment willingness information has a  
predetermined first value which is indicative of payment  
willingness and the first payment willingness information has a  
second value which is different from said predetermined first  
value.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 10,  
in which said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is initiator of the  
connection ~~(23)~~ to be established and the said second subscriber



station ~~(2)~~ is the called station, and in which, in the case of  
5 "collect call", the second payment willingness information has a  
predetermined first value which is indicative of payment  
willingness and the first payment willingness information has a  
second value which is different from said predetermined first  
value.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). Method according to claim  
2, in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the  
initiator of the connection to be established and the said first  
station ~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which the second payment  
5 willingness information has a predetermined first value which is  
indicative of payment willingness and the first payment  
willingness information has a second value which is different  
from the said predetermined first value.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 3,  
in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the initiator  
of the connection to be established and the said first station  
~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which the second payment  
5 willingness information has a predetermined first value which is  
indicative of payment willingness and the first payment

willingness information has a second value which is different from the said predetermined first value.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 10, in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the initiator of the connection to be established and the said first station ~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which the second payment  
5 willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and the first payment willingness information has a second value which is different from the said predetermined first value.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 2, in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the initiator for the connection to be established and the said first subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which, in the  
5 case of "collect call", the first payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 3,  
in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the initiator  
for the connection to be established and the said first  
subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which, in the  
5 case of "collect call", the first payment willingness information  
has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment  
willingness and the second payment willingness information has a  
second value which is different from said predetermined first  
value.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). Method according to claim 10,  
in which the said second subscriber station ~~(2)~~ is the initiator  
for the connection to be established and the said first  
subscriber station ~~(1)~~ is the called station, in which, in the  
5 case of "collect call", the first payment willingness information  
has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment  
willingness and the second payment willingness information has a  
second value which is different from said predetermined first  
value.